

ORANT CHARITIES AFRICA MONTHLY REPORT



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Healthcare Program

Executive Summary

Kasese Health Center (KHC) is in Traditional Authority Chakhaza, Dowa District along M1 road (Kasungu – Lilongwe) in Malawi, Africa. The Health Center is operated by Orant Charities Africa in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MOH). Orant Charities Africa healthcare program assists patients through Kasese Health Center (static clinic) and Mobile Outreach Clinics (MOC) which reaches parts of Kasungu District. The Healthcare program provides curative and preventive health care services to impoverished rural communities. Kasese Health Center operate a busy Outpatients Department (OPD), **10** bed capacity **24** hours children observation ward, and a 7 bed capacity maternity ward, twice a week Antenatal Program, weekly Cervical Cancer Screening and monthly Eye Clinic, Under-Five Clinics (immunization and child growth monitoring) e.t.c. MOC takes the services to hard to reach areas thereby making healthcare accessible. Tropical infectious diseases are common health problems which include: malaria, respiratory disease like pneumonia and bronchitis. However, non-communicable diseases are on the rise for example diabetes and hypertension.

For October 2023, Kasese Health Center (KHC) saw **1910** clients at (OPD). Only **42** patients were seen during weekends and nights. The total number of patients seen in October is **1952** (KHC OPD). MOC in Kasese catchment areas saw **659**. Kasungu (Bowe) Outreach clinic saw **2329** clients. MOC’s total number of patients seen is **2988**. The total number of patients seen in October 2023 is **4940** (Dowa: **1952 (39.5%)** & Kasungu **2988 (60.5%)**).

The Laboratory department tested **1353** for Malaria, out of which **274** were positive, representing a **20%** positivity rate. In Dowa, 771 patients were tested and **131(17%)** were positive cases; in Kasungu, **582** patients were tested and **143(25%)** were positive.

The Maternity department admitted **22** mothers and referred **17**. A total of **22** babies were born at the facility. Out of **22** babies, **3** had complications (**3** Weight < 2.5 Kgs). The total Maternity attendance was **39** (**22** admissions and **17** referrals).

The HTS department tested **249** clients, of which **4** were positive, representing **1.6%**.

The total number of patients seen at the eye clinic by an outsourced clinician is **41** and **4** were booked for surgery.

The MOC team managed to conduct all **20** scheduled visits in the month representing **100%**

Monthly Patients Attendance

Table 1 below shows monthly patients seen in both Dowa and Kasungu.

| Months (2023) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| OPD Static | 175 | 168 | 238 | 197 | 230 | 258 | 204 | 200 | 203 | 1910 | 20670 |
| Bowe MOC | 248 | 318 | 300 | 352 | 437 | 421 | 293 | 265 | 225 | 232 | 30954 |
| Kasese MOC | 667 | 489 | 803 | 876 | 723 | 864 | 743 | 630 | 575 | 659 | 7029 |
| Nights/Holiday | 44 | 46 | 40 | 56 | 58 | 64 | 93 | 49 | 33 | 42 | 525 |
| Total | 4947 | 5403 | 6233 | 6433 | 7455 | 7730 | 5807 | 5332 | 4898 | 4940 | 59178 |

Table 1: Monthly OPD And Outreach Clinic Attendance

Figure 1 below shows the total OCA patient attendance in 2023

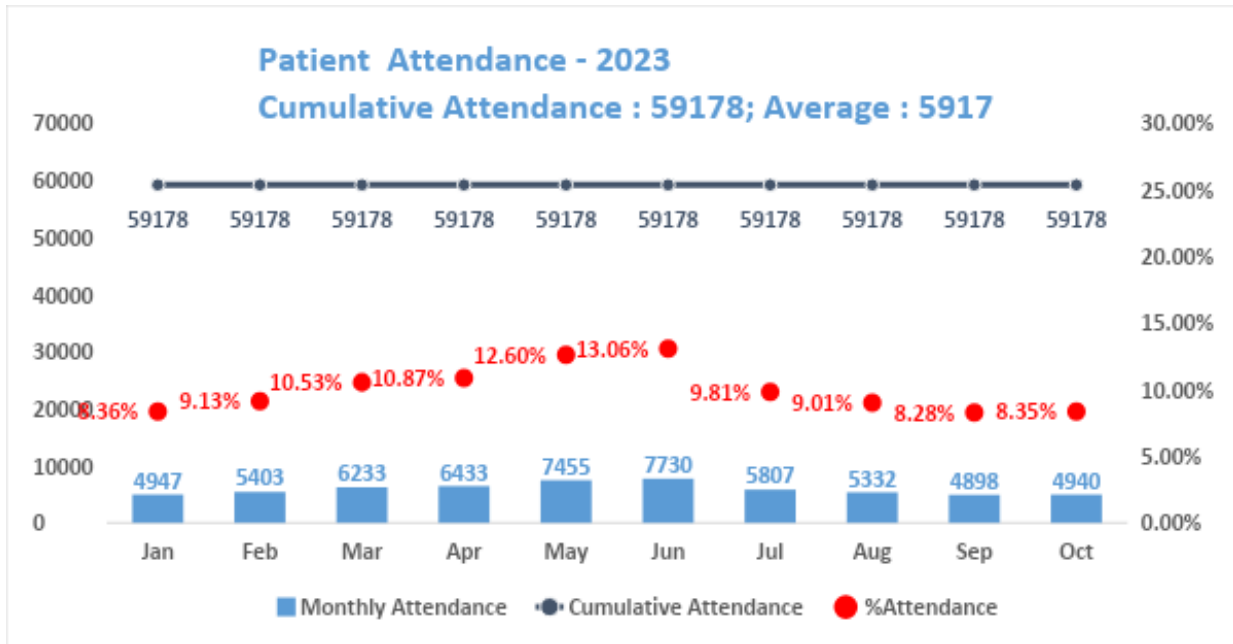


Figure 1: OCA Patient Attendance – 2023.

Figure 2 below shows the cumulative patient attendance for OCA healthcare program in 2023

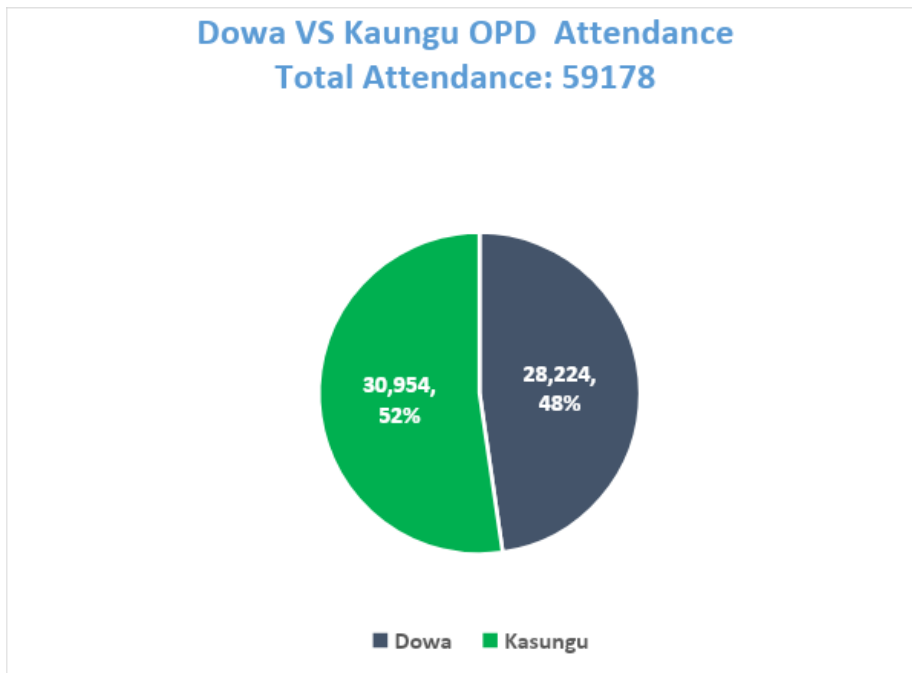


Figure 2: Dowa vs Kasungu (2023).

OCA MOC Updates

Figure 3 below shows the Kasungu patient attendance for October 2023

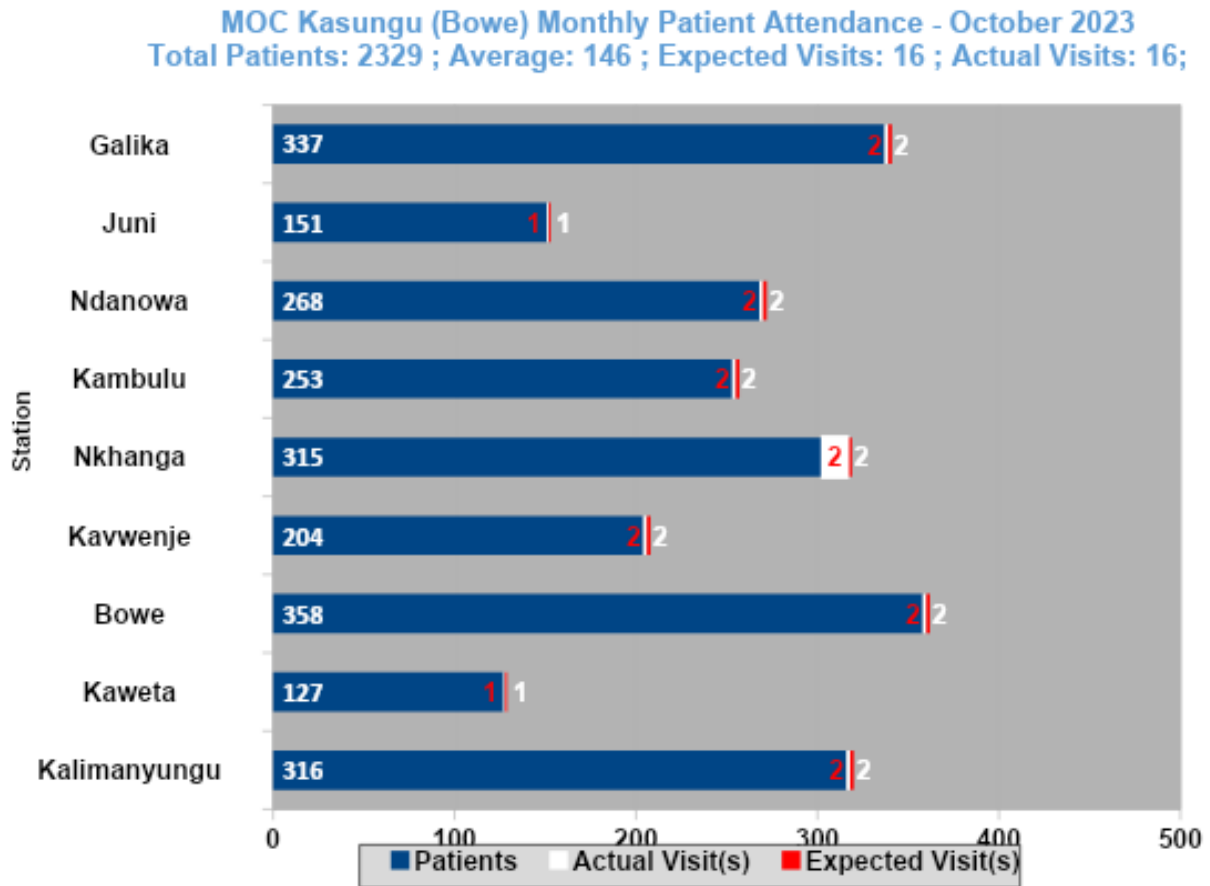


Figure 3: Kasungu Patient Attendance – October 2023.

Figure 4 below shows the Dowa patient attendance for October 2023

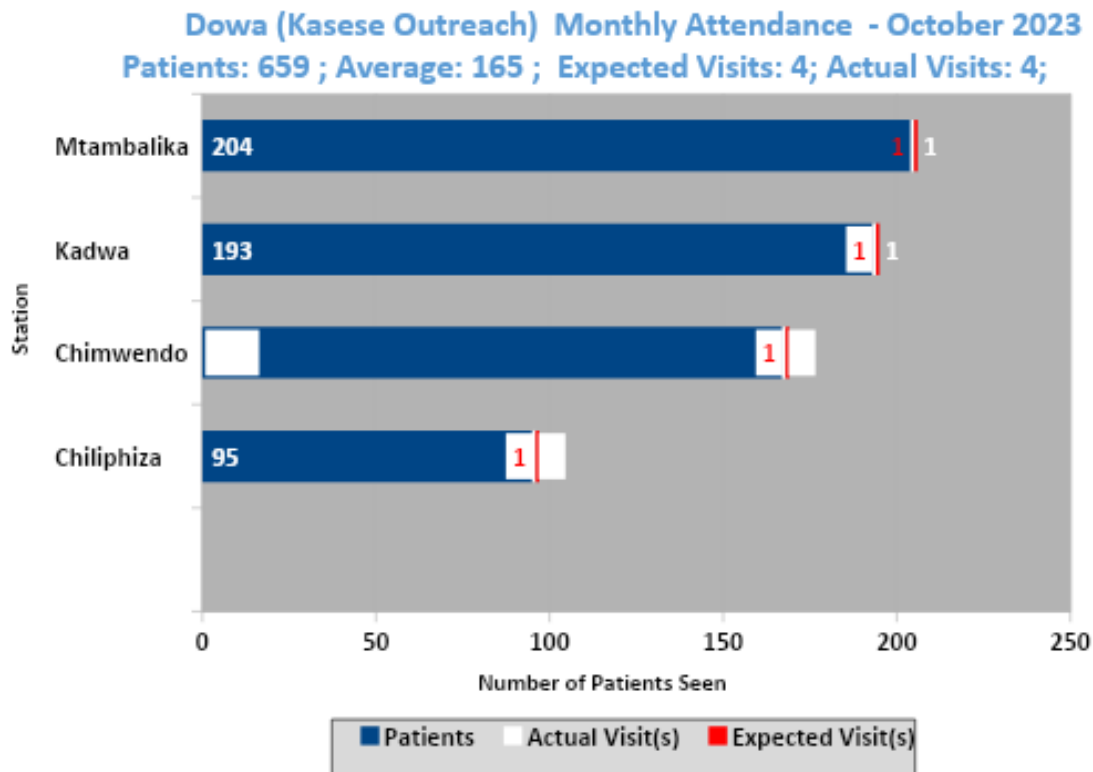


Figure 4: Dowa Patient Attendance – October 2023.

COVID -19 Situation Updates

The COVID-19 situation in the country remains low and in October 2023, **no** test was conducted. The Health Center continues to provide vaccines at the facility.

Cumulative COVID-19 Data – KHC Static.

Table 2 below shows COVID-19 Data.

| | Staff (OCA/HSA) | Others | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| October Tests | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| October Positives | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 2: COVID-19 Cumulative Data

COVID 19 Vaccine (Pfizer) – KHC Static.

Table 3 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

| Dose | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| BFF | 539 | 574 | 1113 |
| 1st Dose | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Dose | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Booster | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 539 | 574 | 1113 |

Table 3: Pfizer Administered at KHC Static (2023)

COVID 19 Vaccine (Johnson & Johnson – J&J) – KHC Static

Table 4 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

| Vaccine Type | Male | Female | Total |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| BFF | 414 | 646 | 1060 |
| Johnson & Johnson (J & J) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Booster | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 414 | 646 | 1060 |

Table 4: J & J Administered at KHC Static (2023)

COVID-19 Vaccine (Astra-Zeneca) – KHC Static.

Table 5 below shows Vaccine Doses Administered in 2023

| Dose | Male | Female | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1st Dose | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2nd Dose | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Table 5: Astra-Zeneca Administered at KHC Static (2023)

COVID 19 Vaccine Status – KHC Static.

Table 6 below shows Vaccine Status in October 2023

| Vaccine Type | Beginning Balance | End Balance |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Pfizer | 0 | 0 |
| J & J | 0 | 0 |

Table 6: Vaccine Status at KHC Static (October 2023)

Reproductive and Family Planning Health

Maternal and New-born Health Care

| Months | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Admissions | 38 | 44 | 36 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 47 | 34 | 33 | 22 | 340 |
| Referrals | 13 | 8 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 23 | 12 | 23 | 12 | 17 | 150 |
| New Babies | 38 | 44 | 36 | 30 | 28 | 28 | 47 | 36 | 33 | 22 | 342 |
| Alive Babies | 38 | 44 | 35 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 46 | 35 | 33 | 22 | 338 |
| Facility Deliveries | 33 | 36 | 32 | 29 | 25 | 26 | 44 | 34 | 33 | 22 | 314 |

Table 7: Maternity Data - 2023

Table 9 below shows the Maternity Data of new babies with complications.

| Months (2023) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Total |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Weight <2500g | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 38 |
| Prematurity | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 22 |
| Asphyxia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Sepsis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Stillbirth Fresh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stillbirth Macerated | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Neonatal Death | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 6 | 3 | 78 |

Table 8; Newborns with complications – 2023

Figure 5 below shows the total newborns complications for 2023.

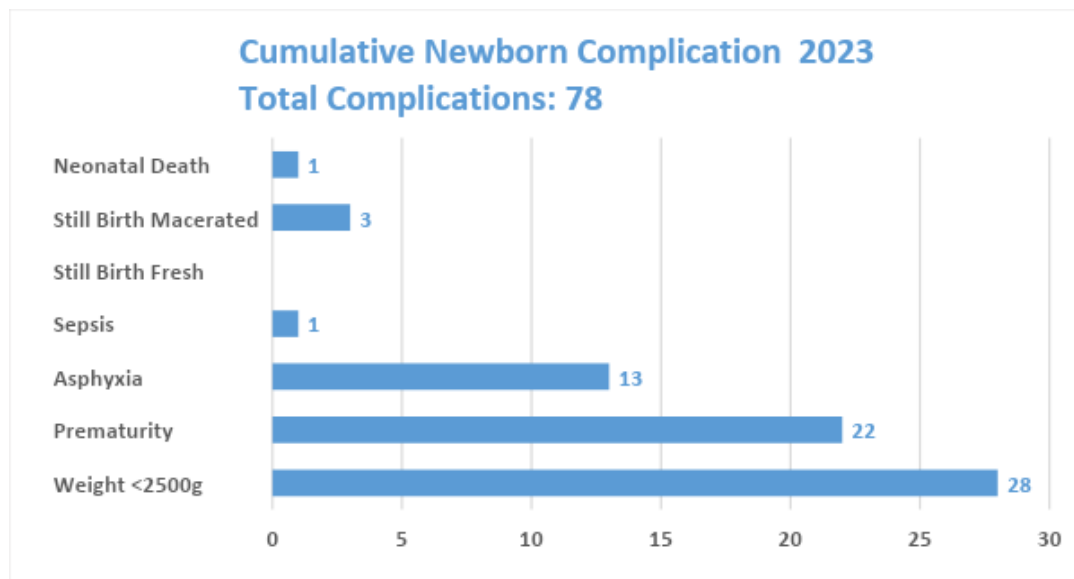


Figure 5: Newborns Complications – 2023

Figure 6 below shows the total monthly Maternity attendance.

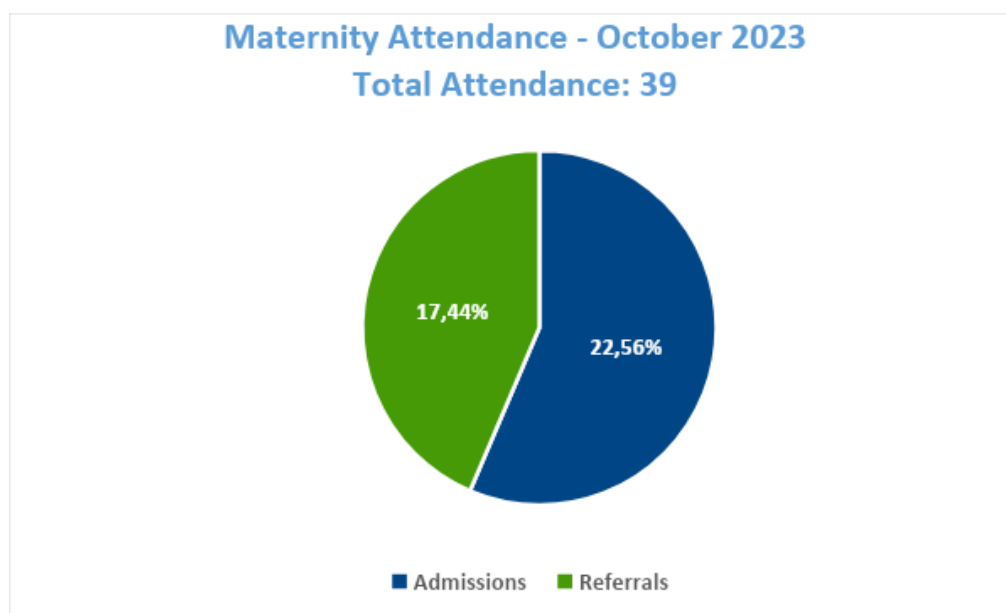


Figure 6: Admissions and Referrals (October 2023)

Table 9 below shows the reason for the referrals

| Referral Reason | Referred |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Oedematous Cervix | 1 |
| Young Primigravida | 7 |
| Obstructed Prolonged Labour | 3 |
| APH | 2 |
| Premature Labour | 1 |
| Malpresentation | 1 |
| Fumigation | 1 |
| Black Out | 1 |
| Total | 17 |

Table 9: Referral Reasons - October 2023

Table 10 below shows ANC attendance.

| 2023 | New ANC Visit | First Trimester |
|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| January | 69 | 22 |
| February | 53 | 9 |
| March | 50 | 7 |
| April | 38 | 5 |
| May | 78 | 16 |
| June | 69 | 8 |
| July | 78 | 9 |
| August | 95 | 22 |
| September | 64 | 19 |
| October | 98 | 33 |

Table 10: ANC Attendance – 2023

Figure 7 below shows 2023 Monthly ANC Visits.

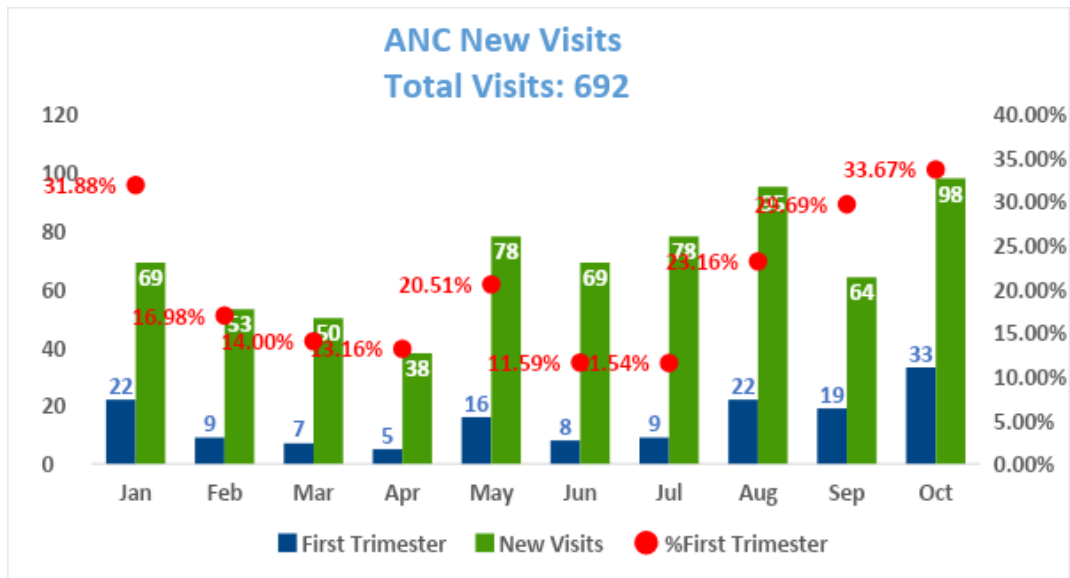


Figure 7: Monthly ANC Visits - 2023.

Cervical Cancer Control Clinic Report

Table 11 below shows the 2023 Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening.

| Months | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Total | 21 | 30 | 44 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 64 | 20 | 36 |
| VIA+ | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

Table 11: Monthly Cervical Cancer Screening 2023

The monthly Cervical Cancer screening remains to be low, there is a need for more community sensitization.

Figure 8 below shows 2023 Cervical Cancer Screenings.

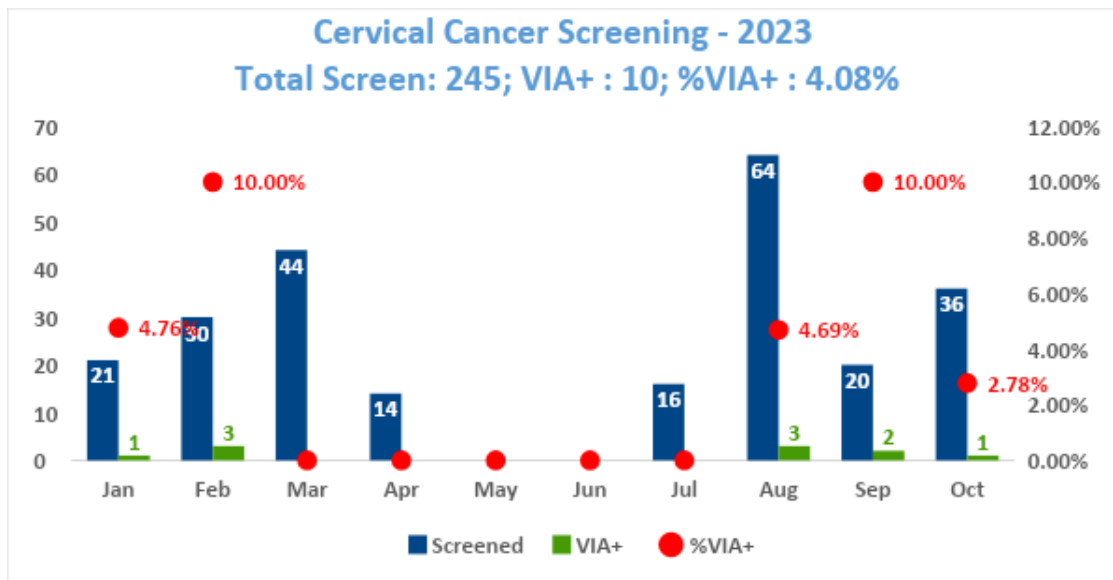


Figure 8; Cervical Cancer Screening - 2023.

Eye Clinic

The outsourced eye specialist continues to provide service in Kasese Health Center and operation is done at Kasungu District Hospital.

Table 12 below shows the total number of clients treated for eye infections and those booked for surgery.

| Month (2023) | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Eye Infections (Treated) | 27 | 40 | 49 | 35 | 30 | 39 | 27 | 36 | 32 | 37 |
| Eye Surgery (Booked) | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| Total Seen | 29 | 41 | 56 | 41 | 36 | 48 | 30 | 42 | 36 | 41 |

Table 12: Monthly Eye Clinic Table - 2023.

Figure 9 below shows the 2023 Monthly Eye Clinics.

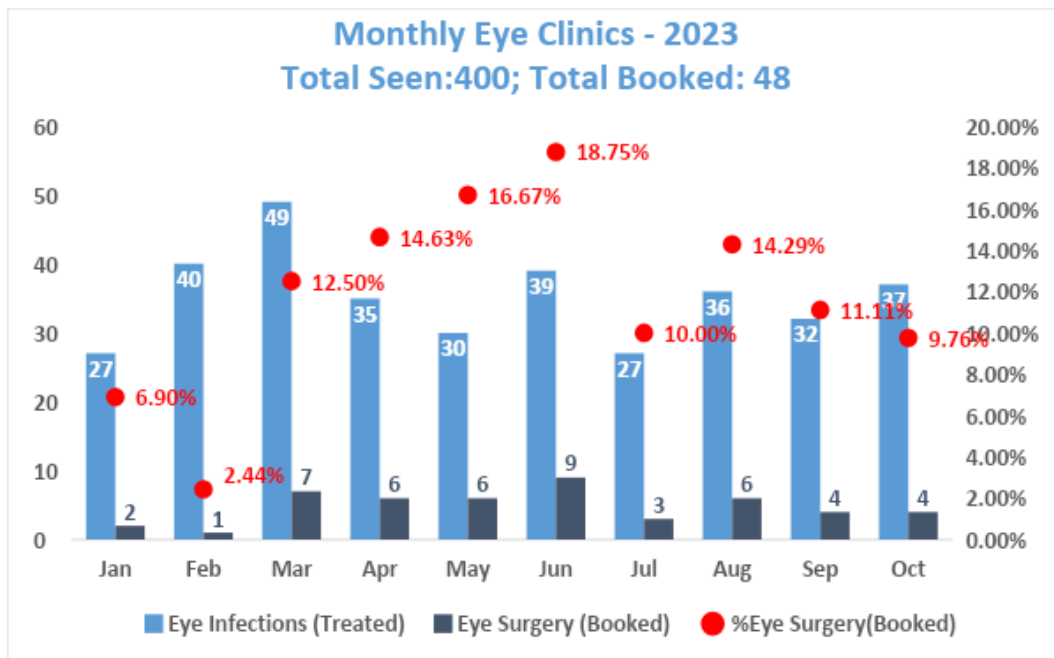


Figure 9: Monthly Eye Clinics - 2023.

Malaria Report

Table 13 below shows Malaria tests for October 2023 (Dowa and Kasungu)

| | Total Tested | Positives | Negatives | Positivity Rate |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Under 5 | 556 | 94 | 462 | 17% |
| 5 Years and Over | 797 | 180 | 617 | 23% |
| Total | 1353 | 274 | 1079 | 20% |

Table 13: Total Malaria Tests (October 2023).

Table 14 below shows the total Malaria Cases (MRDT's Positive), LA Issued and Dispensed (OCA Clinics)

| 2023 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Suspected Malaria Cases | 1854 | 1498 | 220 9 | 274 0 | 3241 | 309 2 | 209 9 | 1434 | 1859 | 1353 |
| Suspected Cases Tested MRDT | 1854 | 1498 | 220 9 | 274 0 | 3241 | 309 2 | 209 9 | 1434 | 1859 | 1353 |
| Confirmed Malaria Cases | 508 | 354 | 635 | 996 | 1748 | 1241 | 542 | 258 | 418 | 274 |
| New Malaria Cases Registered | 508 | 361 | 651 | 996 | 1778 | 1245 | 548 | 273 | 418 | 274 |
| LA Dispensed | 503 | 361 | 651 | 995 | 1748 | 1245 | 548 | 273 | 418 | 274 |
| LA Issued | 120 | 600 | 940 | 102 0 | 2877 | 520 | 150 | 120 | 150 | 300 |

Table 14: Total Malaria Cases, LA Issued and Dispensed Table.

Figure 10 shows the total OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Dowa, 2023)

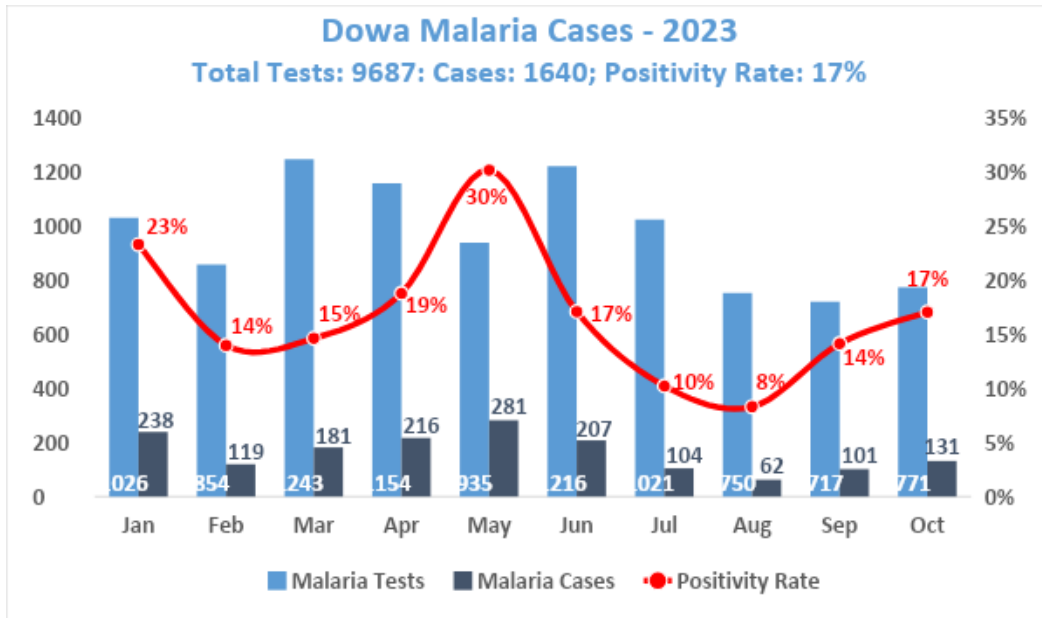


Figure 10: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Dowa, 2023).

Figure 10 shows the total OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023)

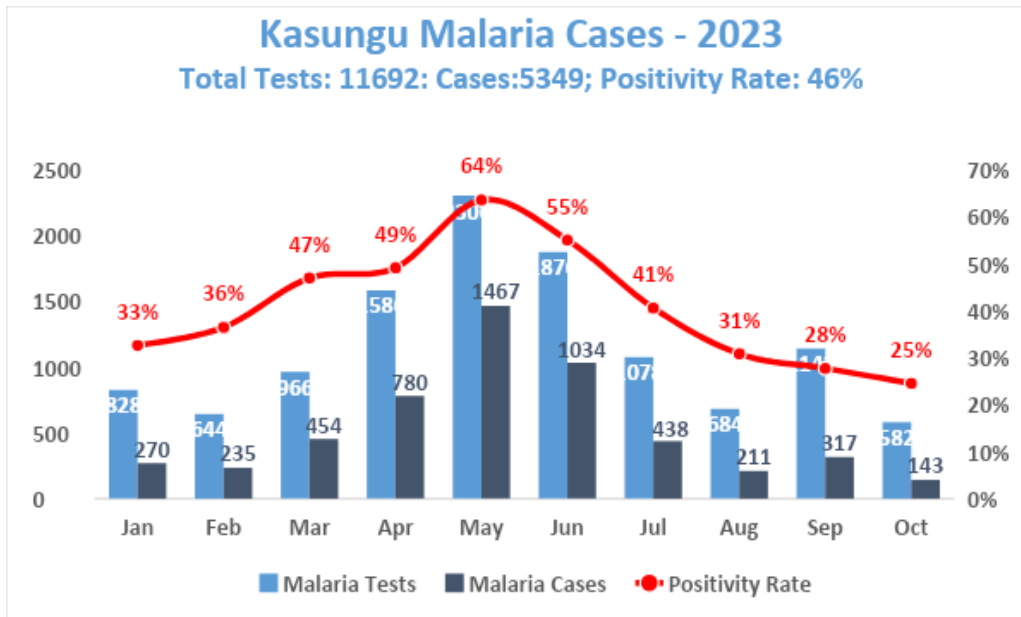


Figure 11: OCA Clinics Malaria tests (Kasungu, 2023).

Figure 12 shows the total OCA Clinics under 5 Years of Malaria tests

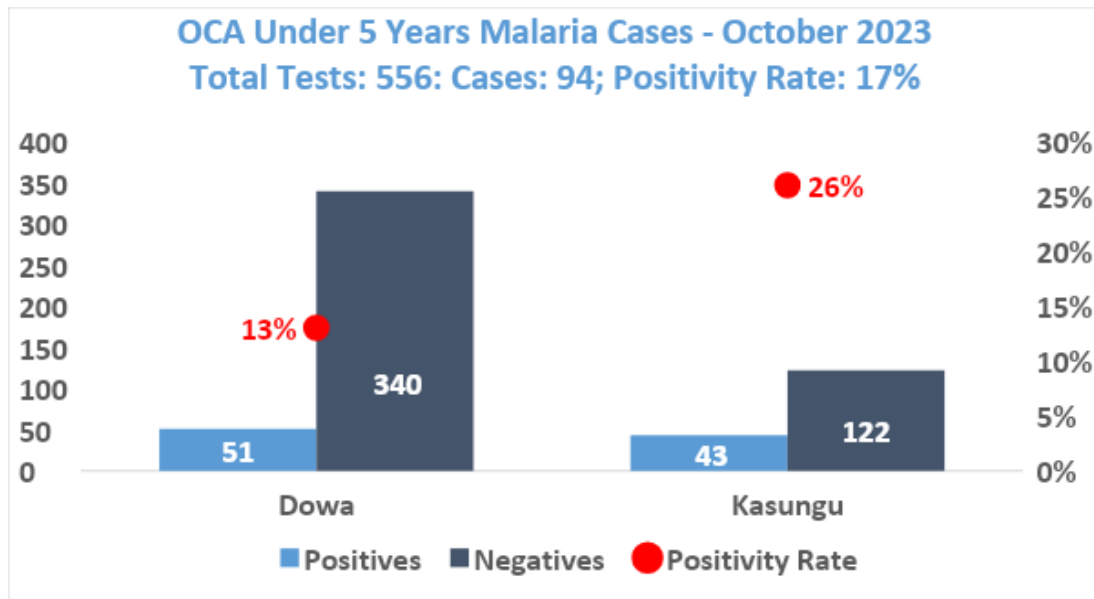


Figure 12; OCA Clinics, Under 5 Years Malaria tests (October 2023)

Figure 13 shows the total OCA Clinics 5 Years and Over Malaria tests

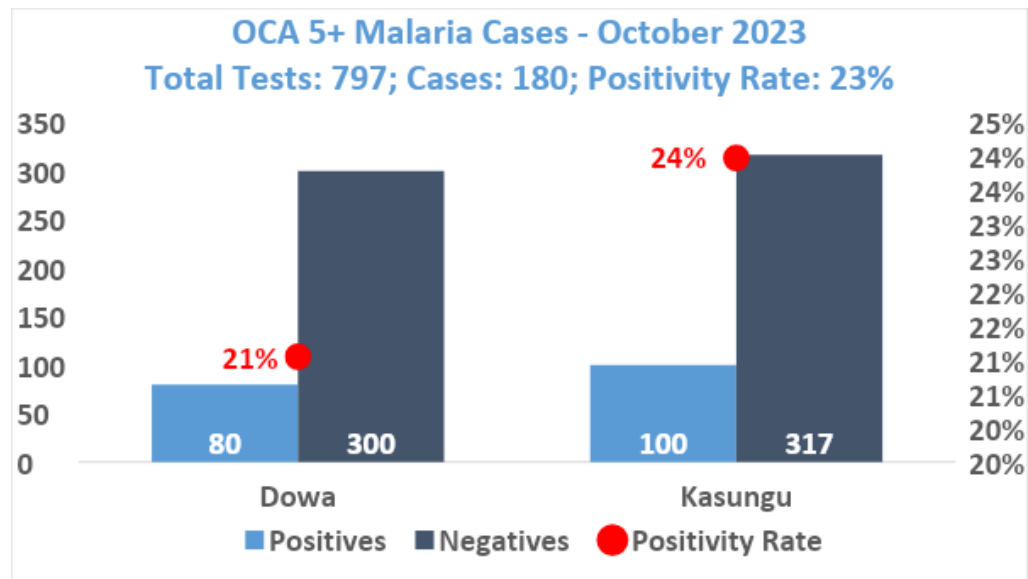


Figure 13; OCA Clinics, 5+ Malaria tests (October 2023)

HIV Testing Services (HTS)

| Months | Total Tested | Positives | Positivity Rate |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| January | 193 | 2 | 1.04% |
| February | 154 | 2 | 1.30% |
| March | 215 | 2 | 0.93% |
| April | 169 | 3 | 1.78% |
| May | 202 | 3 | 1.49% |
| June | 193 | 2 | 1.04% |
| July | 190 | 3 | 1.58% |
| August | 246 | 1 | 0.41% |
| September | 267 | 6 | 2.25% |
| October | 249 | 4 | 1.61% |

Table 15; HTS Monthly Data 2023

Kasese catchment area positivity rate remains to be low, this could indicate that people adhere to HIV/AIDS preventive measures.

Figure 14 below shows HTS' Monthly Attendance

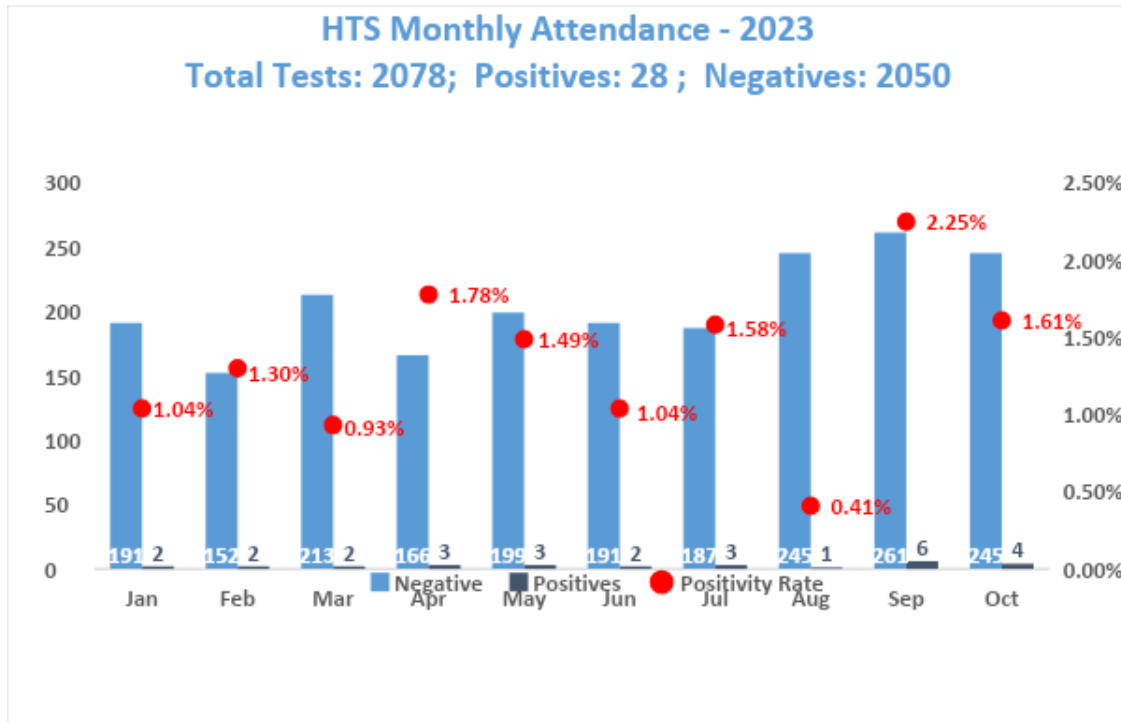


Figure 14; HTS Monthly Tests – 2023

Laboratory Services

Table 16 below shows qualitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2023.

| | H. Pyloris | | Salmonella | | Hep B | | HCG | | COVID 19 | |
|------------|------------|-----|------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|----------|-----|
| | Total | Pos | Total | Pos | Total | Pos | Total | Pos | Total | Pos |
| Oct | 105 | 17 | 14 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 86 | 34 | 0 | 0 |

Table 16: Qualitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics - October 2023.

Figure 15 below shows qualitative lab tests – October 2023

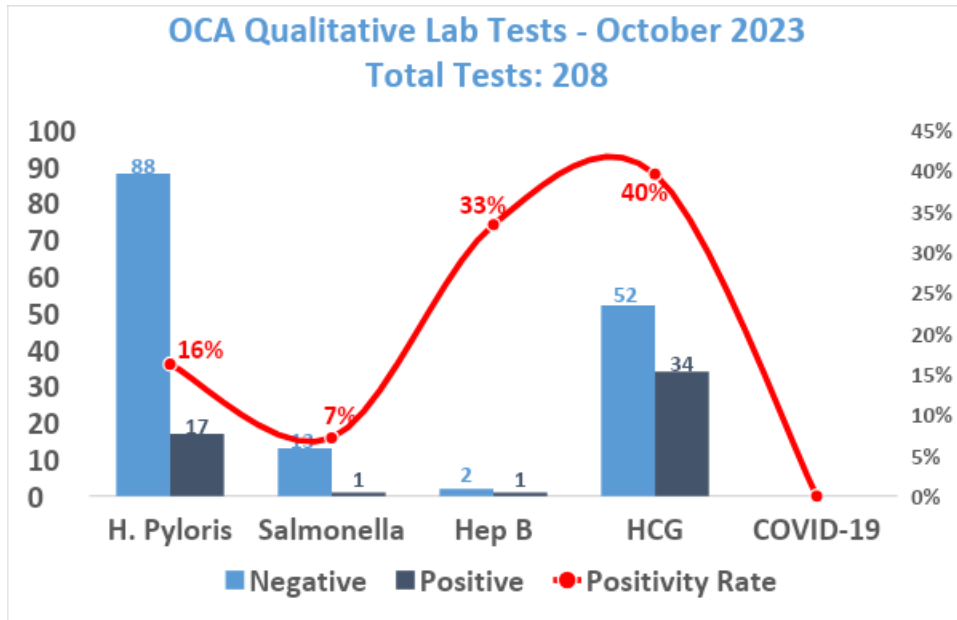


Figure 15; Qualitative Lab Tests – 2023.

Table 17 below shows OCA clinics quantitative Laboratory tests conducted in 2023.

| | Glucose | HB | Urinalysis | FBC |
|------------|---------|-----|------------|-----|
| Jan | 172 | 192 | 23 | 95 |
| Feb | 100 | 137 | 33 | 133 |
| Mar | 118 | 110 | 16 | 191 |
| Apr | 140 | 60 | 17 | 126 |
| May | 51 | 162 | 21 | 106 |
| Jun | 75 | 71 | 11 | 100 |
| Jul | 52 | 48 | 4 | 108 |
| Aug | 95 | 48 | 13 | 150 |
| Sep | 46 | 39 | 17 | 161 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Oct | 66 | 43 | 15 | 129 |
| Total | 915 | 910 | 170 | 1299 |

Table 17; Quantitative Lab Tests Data Table for OCA Clinics.

Figure 16 shows quantitative lab tests for the year 2023

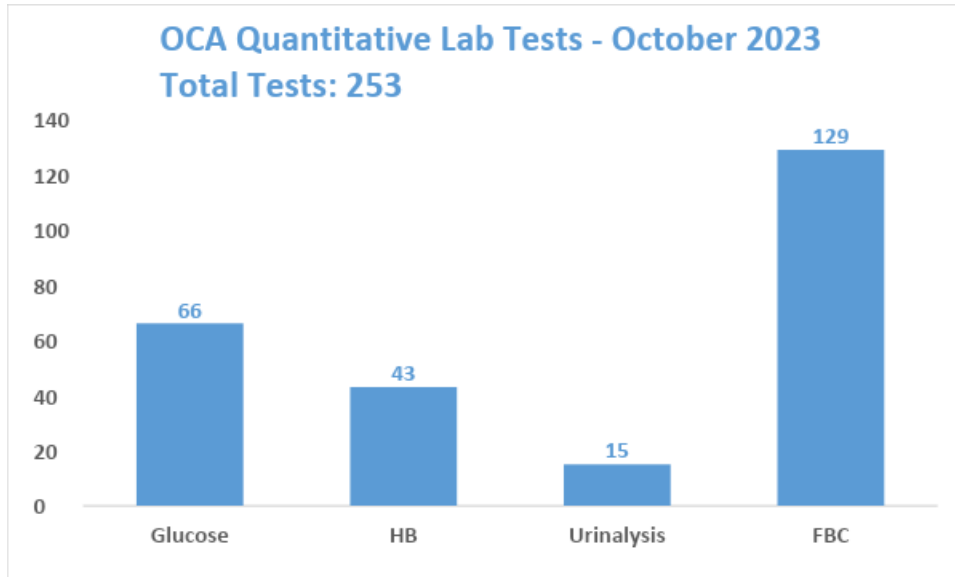


Figure 16; Quantitative Lab Tests – 2023.

Disease Group Trends

Figure 17 below shows Dowa disease occurrences for October 2023

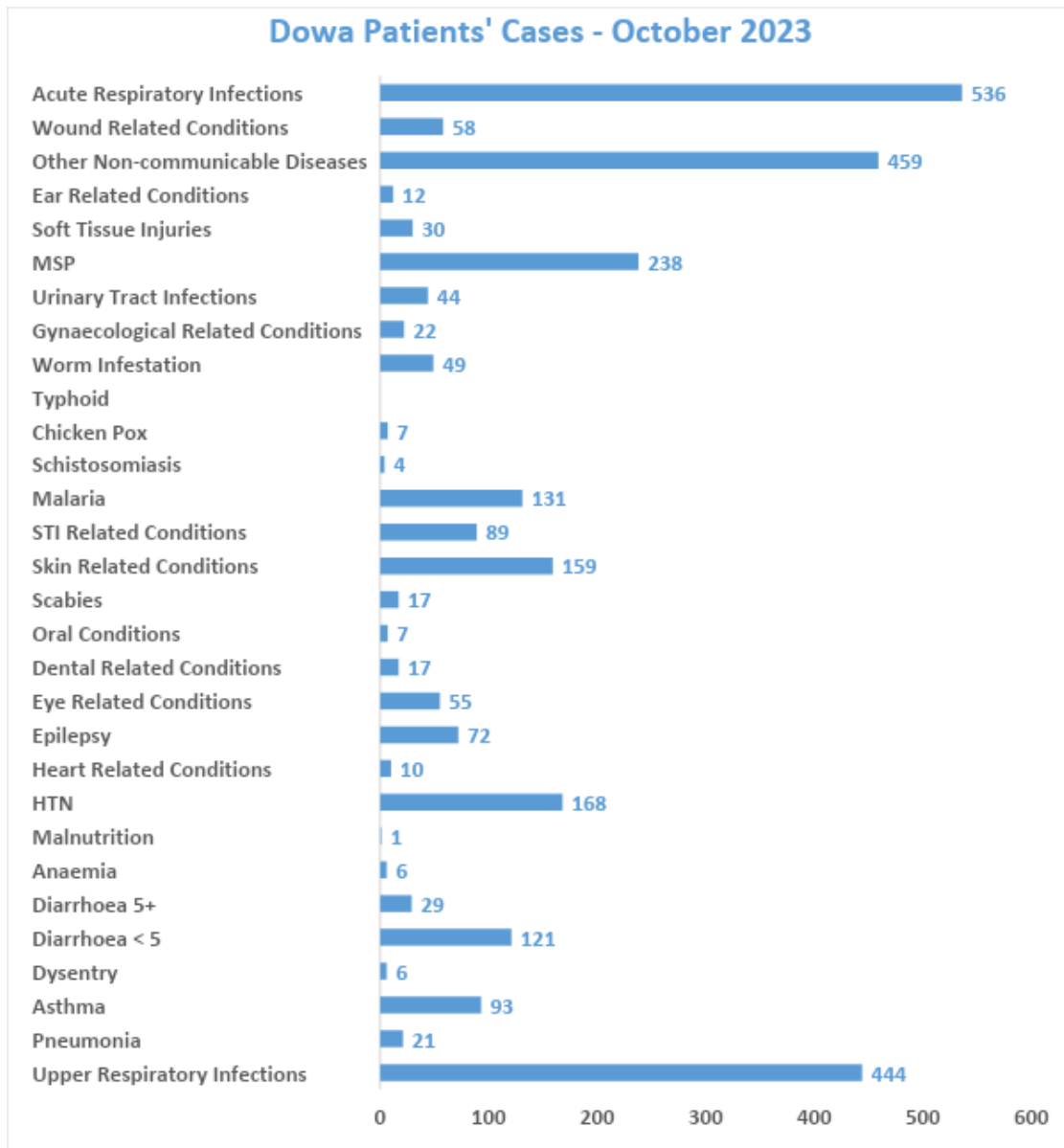


Figure 17: Dowa Disease Occurrences (October 2023).

Figure 18 below shows Kasungu disease occurrences for October 2023.

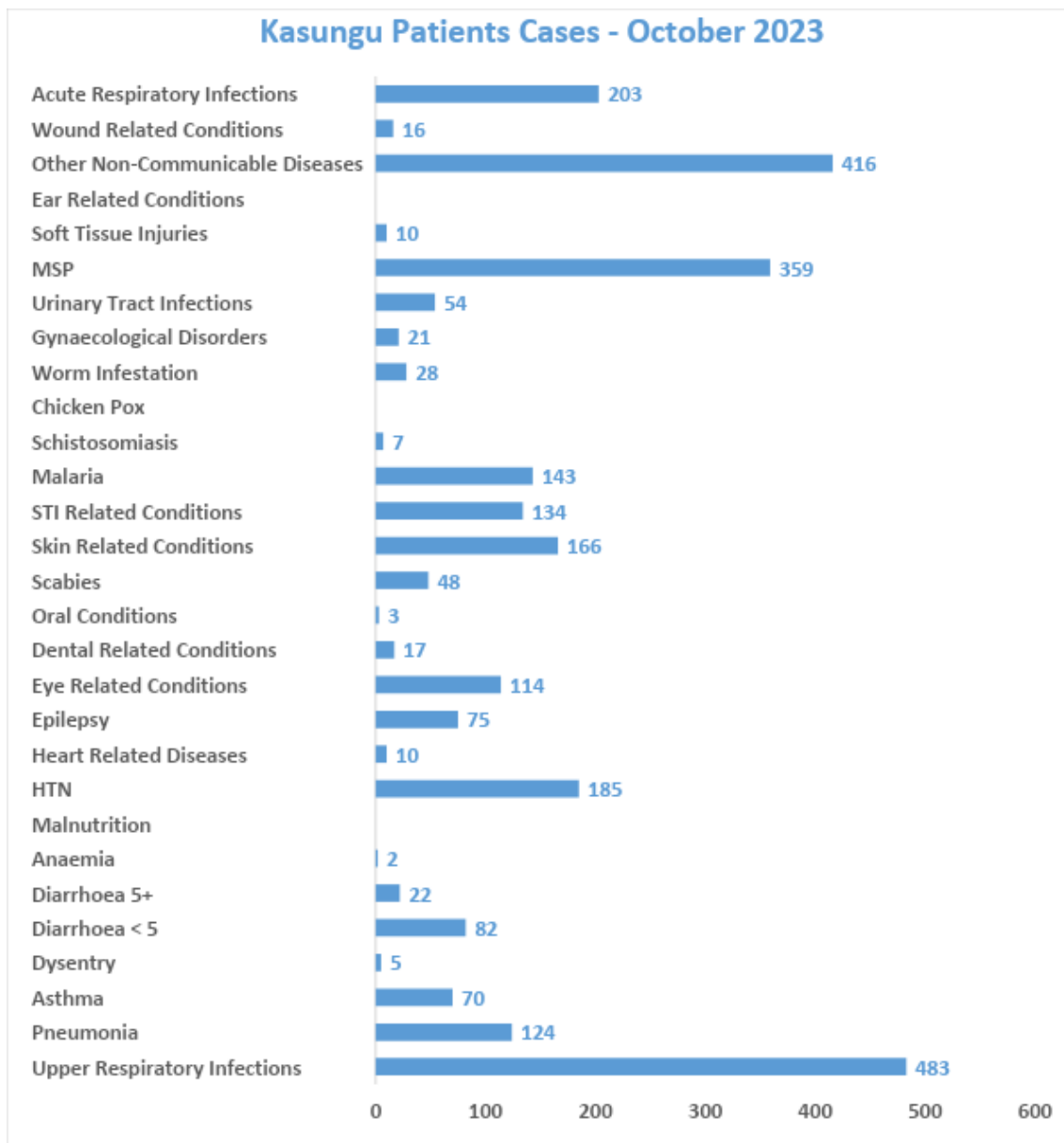


Figure 18: Kasungu Disease Occurrences (October 2023)

Healthcare Finance and Administration

Table 18 shows the clinic finance table for 2023.

| 2023 | Collection | Referrals | Clients | Average Cost |
|-----------|--------------|------------|---------|--------------|
| January | MK 2,625,400 | MK 276,575 | 20 | MK 13,829 |
| February | MK 2,757,500 | MK 307,220 | 18 | MK 17,068 |
| March | MK 3,257,750 | MK 343,040 | 25 | MK 13,722 |
| April | MK 3,215,700 | MK 527,070 | 23 | MK 22,916 |
| May | MK 3,860,800 | MK 348,529 | 16 | MK 21,783 |
| June | MK 4,052,700 | MK 582,320 | 23 | MK 25,318 |
| July | MK 3,049,700 | MK 307,050 | 15 | MK 20,470 |
| August | MK 2,904,550 | MK 550,985 | 23 | MK 23,956 |
| September | MK 2,516,250 | MK 326,455 | 24 | MK 13,602 |
| October | MK 2,594,800 | MK 418,190 | 21 | MK 19,914 |

Table 18: Clinic Finances – 2023

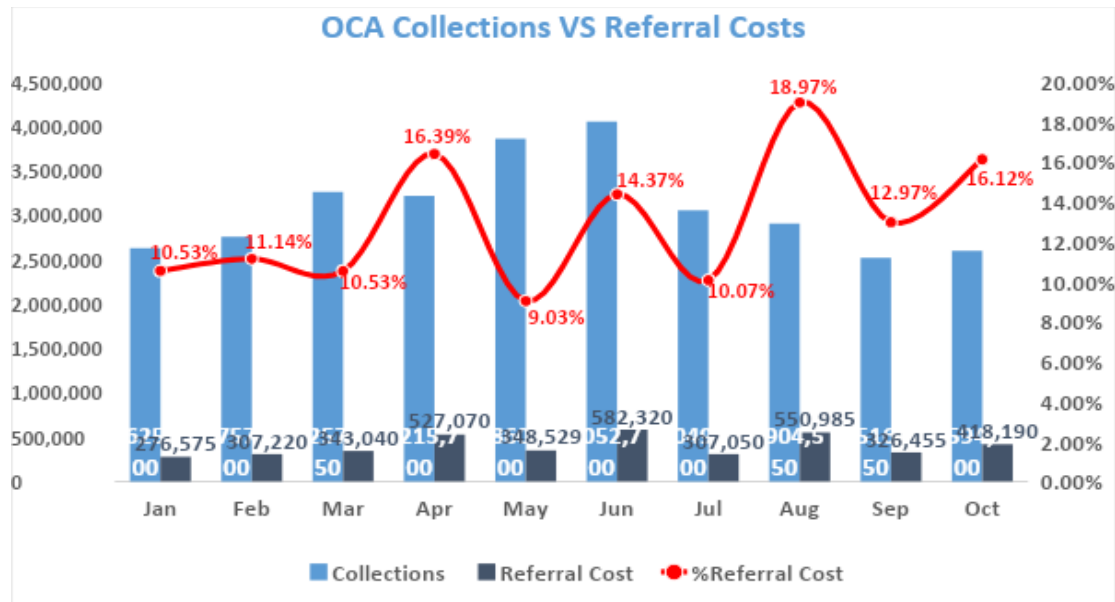


Figure 19: OCA Collections VS Referrals - 2023.



Figure 20: OCA Referred Clients - 2023.

C. Achievements and Challenges

1. Success Highlights

- ❖ Beauty Banda, a patient care attendant (PCA) , attended and successfully passed the exams of the integrated HIV, Hepatitis and syphilis testing services organized by the Ministry of Health (MoH) with technical support from the public institution of Malawi. Therefore, now the health Centre has 4 certified HTS Counselors.
- ❖ Eleven patients booked for eye surgery underwent successful eye cataract operation in Kasungu District hospital. They couldn't hide their joys as their eyesight was restored immediately, one of them said “she is able to see properly and can now count the money properly unlike before”, while the other patient said “she is able to see and read the bible clearly”.



Patient Care Attendant (Rose) with some of the clients who underwent a successful eye cataract surgery

2. A trailer for the second mobile outreach has been successfully imported.

Challenges

- ❖ From the figure 10, there is an upwards trend in Malaria positive cases from the month of July to October 2023. While in Kasungu Mobile Outreach Clinics there is downtrend as expected during this time of the year. If the trends continue to be like this in Dowa, the malaria epidemic period that is December 2023 to May 2024, there might be high incidence rate.
- ❖ Kasese Health Center received staff from Dowa District Health Office (Data department) who come for facilitative supervision on Data validations. They were impressed with Kasese data tools and a lot of reports were in line with the District Health Management Information System (DHMIS). However, they also noted few problems in, Integrated Treated Nets (ITNs), Postnatal, Family Planning, and Help Babies Breath (HBB), Kangaroo Mother Care (Low birth weight and premature babies) registers that lacked page summaries, monthly summaries, and skipping of a page before the entering data for the following month.
- ❖ There is an increase in respiratory infection followed by non-communicable diseases as depicted in Figure 21 above

D. Way forward

- ❖ Plans are under way to establish Non Communicable Disease (NCD's) at Kasese Health Center by January 2024 as some staff have been already trained on management of NCD's.
- ❖ There is need to intensify health promotion of malaria prevention in the catchment area
- ❖ The staff has been informed on the importance of proper documentation in data registers, and regular data reviews by program focal persons.

Appendices

Appendix A: October 2023 MOC Schedule

| OCTOBER 2023 OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------------|------------------|
| DAT E | DAY | STATION | DISTRICT | ACTIVITY | TIME |
| 01 | Sunday | | | | |
| 02 | Monday | Nkhanga | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 03 | Tuesday | Galika | Weekend | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 04 | Wednesday | Lisito | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 05 | Thursday | Ndanowa | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 06 | Friday | Kadwa | Dowa | Outreach clinic | 08:00am - 4:00pm |
| 07 | Saturday | | | | |
| 08 | Sunday | | | | |
| 09 | Monday | Bowe | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 10 | Tuesday | Kantomphole | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 11 | Wednesday | Chisuwe | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 12 | Thursday | Kalimanyungu | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 13 | Friday | Mtambalika | Dowa | Outreach clinic | 08:00am - 4:00pm |
| 14 | Saturday | | | | |
| 15 | Sunday | Mother's Day | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------|------------------|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| 16 | Monday | Mother's Day Off | | | |
| 17 | Tuesday | Juni | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 18 | Wednesday | Kavwenje | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 19 | Thursday | Kambulu | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 20 | Friday | Chiliphiza | Dowa | Outreach clinic | 08:00am - 4:00pm |
| 21 | Saturday | | | | |
| 22 | Sunday | | | | |
| 23 | Monday | Kaweta | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 24 | Tuesday | Miyowe | Weekend | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 25 | Wednesday | Bowe | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 26 | Thursday | Galika | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 27 | Friday | Chimwendo | Dowa | Outreach clinic | 08:00am - 4:00pm |
| 28 | Saturday | | | | |
| 29 | Sunday | | | | |
| 30 | Monday | Kalimanyungu | Kasungu | Outreach clinic | 09:00am - 3:00pm |
| 31 | Tuesday | Preparation Day | | | |

Water and Sanitation Program

Executive Summary



Since October marks the start of the year's final quota, it is an opportune moment to evaluate the WASH program's achievements to date. The WASH program planned a number of activities in October that were inline with its overarching goal of encouraging Kasese residents to have access to WASH services. It is noteworthy that the October borehole drilling for the WASH program was canceled owing to unanticipated breakdown of equipment, and instead took place in early November. As a result, a narrative summary of the major activities completed and proposed activities for October 2023 is given in this monthly report.

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

In October the following milestones were achieved;

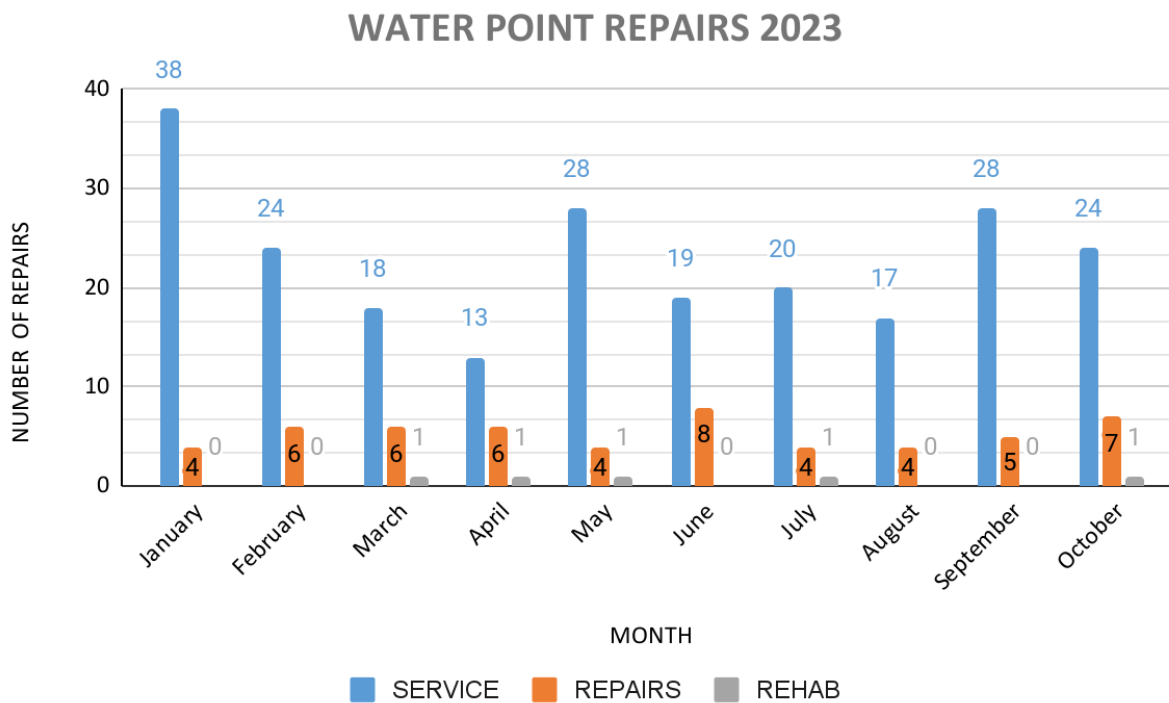
- Supported 32 water point repairs (Service/preventive: 24; major repairs: 8)
- Conducted Community-Based Management (CBM) training for Chika and Phiko
- Completed Construction of latrines at Kalikulu Primary School
- Monitoring Sanitation Entrepreneurs (Monitored 4)
- Attended DEC meeting (1)

DETAILED NARRATION OF MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENTS

The WASH program carried out the following key activities in October 2023.

Water point repairs and rehabilitations

In October, the WASH program repaired a total of 32 water points (Service/preventive: 24; major repairs: 7; Rehab: 1). During the month, MK 277, 850 was spent by communities on preventive maintenance while OCA paid MK 529, 900 on major repairs of boreholes. So far in 2023, a total of 288 repairs have been conducted. Out of this 229 are preventive maintenance while 59 are major maintenance. Below is a graph showing the progress of water point maintenance for the WASH program;



Community-Based Management (CBM) training for Water Point Committees (WPCs)

To empower communities to manage their water facilities, the OCA WASH program conducts community-based management training for Water Point Committees (WPCs). During the month, the WASH program conducted CBM training for Chika and Phiko WPCs. The two boreholes in Chika and Phiko were drilled with support from OCA in September 2023. During the training water point committees were trained in water point sanitation and minor repairs. Each training had 11 participants and was facilitated collaboratively between OCA and the Dowa district council. Cumulatively, in 2023 OCA

has trained a total of 14 WPCs out of which 3 are refresher trainings while 11 are trainings for new water point committees.



A Classroom session during CBM training for Chika WPC

District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting

In October the WASH program was invited to attend a DEC Meeting in Dowa. The agenda for the DEC Meeting was a presentation from the National Water Resources Authority (NRWA) on water rights and abstraction charges newly instituted. During the presentation, the NRWA outlined their mandate which included enforcement of water laws, and management of water rights on behalf of the Malawi government. One of the key issues noted in the presentation was the need for NGOs to pay MK 90,000.00 as a once-off abstraction charge for all boreholes drilled. As a way forward the OCA WASH program will follow up on this issue on modalities and nitty-gritty of these payments with the NRWA.

Latrine Construction at Kalikulu Primary School



Left - Damaged girls' latrines at Kalikulu before OCA intervention, Right - Construction of girls' latrine at Kalikulu Primary School before handover

In October, the WASH program completed the construction of girls' latrines at Kalikulu Primary School. The latrines were constructed as a response to the damaged latrines at school during the rainy season. The 3 latrine cubicles and a changing room are expected to support a total of **264** girls from the school. In total Kalikulu has an enrolment of **512** learners out of which 248 are boys and 264 are girls. The new latrines are expected to be in November 2023.

Monitoring Sanitation Entrepreneurs



Left - Exterior view of a latrine constructed by Mr Pingeni Kachikopa from Makombwa VDC, Right -Interior view of a latrine completed with pit latrine slab during the monitoring visit

During the month the WASH program visited 3 Sanitation Entrepreneurs from Kachila, Makombwa 1 and Makombwa 2 VDCs. The visits aimed to monitor the progress made by the sanitation entrepreneurs since the completion of their training in July 2023. The

sanitation entrepreneurs are responsible for the construction of pit latrine slabs and corbelled latrines in their communities. During the monitoring visit, it was observed that some progress has been made by sanitation entrepreneurs despite some challenges they had faced. The sanitation entrepreneur from Makombwa 1 has made 4 pit latrine slabs and 2 which have been installed. Similarly, the sanitation entrepreneur from Kachila has made 5 pit latrine slabs and 3 have been installed. Finally, the sanitation entrepreneur from Makombwa 2 has made 13 slabs all of which have been installed. This shows there is some progress in the implementation of the sanitation marketing project since the sanitation entrepreneurs were trained in July 2023. Despite this progress, there is still more room for improvement especially in the promotion of the corbelled latrines in the catchment area.

Agriculture and Business

Agriculture



Training on manure making

Executive Summary

Farming is one of the important activities developing the economy of Malawi. Smallholder farmers depend on farming to improve their economic status and feed their families. OCA supports smallholder farmers in equipping them with knowledge on farming as a business. The activities are done in both irrigation and rainfed farming through provision of training to small holder farmers on good agricultural practices (GAP) and farm inputs as microloans. The following are the activities conducted during the month of October;

Manure production training

The Mbeya manure training took place in areas of Group Village Headmen (GVH) of Mantchondo, Makombwa and Ndalama. The primary objective of the training was to equip smallholder farmers with knowledge and skills in production of high-quality Mbeya manure, emphasizing sustainable and environmentally friendly practices. The training will contribute to the improvement of agricultural practices and promote soil fertility and crop production. More than 136 farmers participated in this training. The training successfully equipped farmers with the knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable farming. The Mbeya manure contributes to reduced production cost while attaining

bumper harvest as it is easy to make. Mbeya production uses locally available resources such as Maize brain, Ash, animal manure, and 10 kg of synthetic fertilizer to produce a 50 kg bag. By using Mbeya fertilizer and all other necessary farming techniques, a farmer can get between 50 to 80 bags of maize per acre. The training was highly valued by smallholder farmers and they assured to practice this new technique as a path to reduce hunger problems.

Training on production of Mbeya manure



Seed Fair Participation

As the rainy season is about to start, Bayer seed company organized a seed fair which was held at T/A Chakhaza premises with an aim of reminding smallholder farmers on the best seeds to plant for bumper harvest.

Orant charities was invited to the seed fair as Bayer seed company partner. A wide array of seed varieties produced by Bayer seed company were showcased. The Maize varieties showcased were of early and moderate maturity which include DKC 80-33, DKC 90-23, DKC 80-53 and DK 777. Information regarding the characteristics, adaptability, and agronomic practices associated with each seed variety was provided, allowing farmers to make informed choices based on their specific needs and environmental conditions. At the seed fair, farmers had the opportunity to buy seed at a reasonable price and they could win prizes as a motivation.



OCA attended the seed fair at TA Chakhaza

VSL Trainings with Irrigation Clubs

The Village Savings and Loan (VSL) training was conducted in irrigation clubs of Tikondane, Timvane and Tidalilainu. The aim of the training was to empower Irrigation club members with financial literacy and management skills. The training will promote the irrigation clubs with means of saving, access to credit and economic self-reliance. The irrigation clubs were encouraged to form VSL groups to easily achieve their club goals. Continued support and follow-up activities will be essential in increasing the impact of the VSL in the long term. To ensure the sustained success of VSL groups, ongoing monitoring and support mechanisms will be established. This will involve regular follow-up sessions, monitoring and periodic assessments of group dynamics and financial records.



Training irrigation clubs on VSL

Solar water Pump installation

Kambalani irrigation club is one of the OCA clubs which were introduced in the year 2022. During the reporting period, the club was supported with the solar water pump. The solar water pump installation was done to address the water needs for agriculture activities and

provide a sustainable and environmentally friendly solution for accessing water for irrigation. The installation of the solar water pump for irrigation farming has proven to be a successful venture, providing the irrigation clubs with a sustainable and cost-effective solution to water supply. Before the support of solar pumps from OCA, the kambalani irrigation club were using buckets to irrigate their crops. The support of solar pumps will help the irrigation club to easily increase the land for cultivation and reduce production cost.



Installation of solar pump at Kambalani irrigation club

Monitoring visits in Irrigation Clubs

Monitoring was done in irrigation clubs of Timvane, Ndalusa, Kambalani, Madzimayela, Mvunguti, Madula, and Tidalilainu. The purpose of the monitoring visits to these irrigation clubs was to assess the crop performance and identify any other challenges faced by these irrigation clubs. On crop growth and health, other factors such as plant vigor, uniformity and absence of pests and diseases were considered. Club members were provided with some measures to overcome the challenges faced. Other irrigation clubs which were affected with pests and disease were supported with farm inputs and encouraged to keep on applying manure and using other measures which are environmentally friendly.



Inter-cropping of Maize and beans at Kambalani irrigation club

Business and Financial Empowerment Microloans (FEM)

Executive Summary

FEM program is empowering women entrepreneurs around Kasese catchment area through the provision of interest-free microloans that are repayable in four equal installments and recurring entrepreneurship courses targeted at providing women with the necessary business skills to enable them to successfully manage their businesses. The end goal of the program is to see women becoming financially independent in the long run. The following activities which are summarized below were conducted in the month of October:

Verification of Members

Field visits were carried out to the households of the women applicants to authenticate the information they had given on the application forms. During the verification process, 65 households from Bweya and Joseni were visited. Out of the 65 women applicants, 27 women entrepreneurs have been confirmed into the program. The remaining 38 members who were visited during the verifications were not confirmed for various reasons. The most common reasons were; Some of the members had taken loans with other institutions whereas some had moved out of the catchment area hence they were

not eligible to be part of the groups. For easy manageability, The verified members have been split into two groups; Bweya and Joseni.



Village Savings and Lending group formulation and trainings

In an effort to build the capacity of the communities we serve, the FEM program has extended its training programs to incorporate groups from other programs. The aim of the training is to cultivate a saving culture so that the groups may become self sustainable. In the reporting month, Village Savings and Loans (VS&L) training for Timvane 1 & 2, Tchale and Katsuka irrigation clubs were conducted. After the training, it was concluded that these groups should form their own VS&L groups. These structures will help the groups to have their own group fund where they may be able to buy farm inputs and equipment in the future.



VS&L trainings with Irrigation clubs; Tikondane and Tidalirane (L) and Timvane 1 & 2 (R) at Matchondo village

Knitting project review meetings

Since the inception of the knitting project, Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups have managed to knit and supply 167 baby hats and 103 booties to the OCA maternity clinic. A total of 12 baby hats and booties were sold on the market. The total sales made from the baby hats were MWK 236,500. Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM groups organized a review meeting to ascertain how they are going to use the proceeds generated from the project. During the meeting, the members from the groups agreed to find a plot of land where they can cultivate groundnuts. The members who are not actively involved in the knitting project will be responsible for most of the farm activities.



Tikondane and Tiyanjane FEM women during review meeting

Monitoring Visits and loans recovery

Visits to FEM participants were conducted to document successes accomplished within the year, and check individual business progress as well. The monitoring visits were also aimed at following up on loan repayments for the month as we are approaching the end of the second loan period.



Olipa (L) and Ndazona (R) on their business posts

VS&L meetings

The women entrepreneurs continue to meet for their weekly savings. The VS&L meetings have been very instrumental for bringing the women together not only to make savings but to share their business and other life experiences. These meetings have also helped the women entrepreneurs in keeping track of their loan repayments.

Education Support Program

Executive Summary

The OCA education program partners with **26** schools in Malawi. We work in genuine partnership with government schools and other stakeholders to provide scholarships to students. We are also working towards improving the learning environment for all students. This goal will help improve students' attendance, academic performance and aspirations. Ultimately offering a suitable route out of poverty after the students succeed in education. The following were the activities which were accomplished by the Education program in the month of October, 2023;

School visits

The OCA education program visited sponsored students in their respective schools. Nine secondary schools were visited during the reporting period; Dowa, Lilongwe girls, Likuni girls, Dzenza, St. chavara, Tchawale, Chamkango and Ngala. The aim of the visits was to monitor students' academic performance, encourage them to work extra hard in school

and also to provide them with material and moral support. A total of 59 students were supported with school supplies by the OCA Education program. The supplies which were given to them includes; Hard covers, Pens, pencils, Sugar, sanitary products and many more.

- Below are pictures of some of the students who were visited by Orant during the reporting period



Students from Dowa (left) & St. Chavara (right) Secondary school carrying supplies given by OCA



OCA personnel giving supplies to students from Dzenza (left) & Madisi (right) sec. school

In addition to that, students were also mentored. Through these mentorship sessions, the students are able to develop certain problem-solving skills which to an extent help them deal with particular issues surrounding their lives. The students are advised to cope with different situations they tend to face in their school life. For example, how they should

talk politely or relate with their peers. This advice will give them perspective on how they should behave in certain scenarios.

It was an inspirational visit and the students were greatly inspired from what was shared with them. Their school reports were checked and they were asked to share their views, challenges, and how they are faring in school. The students were impressed and very thankful for spending some time with the OCA personnel to encourage them.

Donation of Braille Machine



In the same month, Orant charities through the Education program donated a Braille machine and Braille papers to Chayamba Secondary school. Despite sponsoring students in various schools, Orant would also want to focus on supporting schools. This is so because we want to promote excellent education by providing every student

with the resources they need to excel. We envision a future where every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality education and equal opportunities for growth.

At Chayamba secondary school, there are 14 students with visual impairment and the school only had 3 braille machines in good condition, Orant donated one and there are now four. It is crucial to support blind persons who use Braille since it is a potent tool for promoting independence, equality, and inclusion. With the use of Braille, a tactile writing system, people with vision impairments may read, write, and communicate successfully, giving them the freedom to take part fully in social interactions, work opportunities, and education. By embracing Braille, we close the gap between sighted and visually impaired people, ensuring equal access to opportunities and information, and reaffirming everyone's fundamental right to live a life that is both rewarding and self-determined.



OCA donating a Braille machine & papers (left) at Chayamba sec. school and students using the Braille machine (right) given by Orant